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IT is stated that the Comte de Paris has declined propositions made in England for the publication there of his history of the war in the United States, because he "would rather his history should be translated and published by Americans."

THE *Publishers' Review* sends us its second number, for May 15th, in covers, for which we have to thank the publishers, John H. Bentley & Co., 37 and 39 S. Third street, Philadelphia. We trust it may do good service in the bibliographical field.

CHIEF-JUSTICE SIR EDWARD CREASY, of England, has in press a new book, entitled, "First Platform of International Law."

The Book Fair and its Arrangements.

THE Committee on Assemblies has already received a considerable number of assurances from members of the trade in all parts of the country, that they will be present at the Convention, and nearly half of those so far communicating were not present at Put-in Bay. The great proportion of these, we believe, will come to New-York to the Book Fair, for the success of the arrangements thus far gives promise of an offering of books which must attract all enterprising dealers. Many of the leading houses which showed their sense of the demoralizations from the auction system, by refusing to contribute to the old trade sales, have already made arrangements with Mr. Leavitt for representation at the exchange. We may already state that the lists of D. Appleton & Co. —we give the names in order of entry—Sheldon & Co., Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., A. S. Barnes & Co., Harper & Brothers, John Wiley & Son, Hurd & Houghton, Macmillan & Co., Henry Holt & Co., Thomas Nelson & Sons, W. J. Widdleton, George Routledge & Sons, G. W. Carleton & Co., G. P. Putnam's Sons, will be offered at the special terms; and since we received this list, we learn Mr. Leavitt has been negotiating with the houses of other cities. We may safely say that no such opportunity of buying goods on special terms, in a sensible and safe way, has ever been offered to the trade.

The arrangements for the accommodation of sellers and buyers promise the fullest conveniences. Mr. Leavitt has the offer of the use of the reading-room opposite his regular salesroom, which gives the entire second floor of the Clinton Hall building, and proposes also to use the third story above his salesroom, cutting a special stairway for direct communication. Ample provision will be made for desk room and sample shelving, and the trade is sure to be well accommodated.

The present sale is of course an experiment, and can scarcely be expected, following a large spring trade sale, to equal the results of the new system once it gets fairly into operation, and experience shows when is the best time to hold it. Nevertheless we anticipate a great success even this year. Next year, provided the sale be held about this time, we propose to issue the *Uniform Trade List Annual*, if publishers will make it possible by printing their lists in time, just previous to the fair. This year we propose as an expedient, to supplement the uniform *Trade List Annual* of 1874, which, at the suggestion of the Committee, will be used as a basis of orders, with a special number of the WEEKLY, to contain full information as to the exchange, and the contributions thereto, and give publishers opportunity to advertise their lists of new books issued since the *Annual*, or any special lines to which they desire to call attention. This will be sent to all subscribers to the ANNUAL and WEEKLY, and to any others on the Messrs. Leavitt's trade sale catalogue lists, and be freely distributed at the Convention, so that the trade shall be fully informed as to the fair. We should be glad to see in this a list of those intending to come as buyers, provided they will send in their names.

The Book Exchange promises to secure all the advantages of the trade sales and manifold more, and to avoid the demoralization they helped to bring upon the trade. Every one in the trade is therefore interested in making them an assured success.

WE have a letter from a leading school-book house, urging us to publish the *Trade List Annual*, while a prominent miscellaneous house counsels that it be delayed till fall, so as to get in all the next season's books. These conflicting opinions illustrate our frequent difficulties in reconciling opposing interests. It is our endeavor to do the best for all concerned, and, as above stated, it will probably be found wisest hereafter to issue the *Annual* just before the Book Fair. That for 1875 will be issued about September.

EVERY one who thinks of coming to Niagara should notify the Committee at once, *by letter*. If they can't come when the time arrives, it is not proposed to subpœna them on the strength of their promises; so no one need fear to send in his name, even if he may be prevented from coming. Send in the names.

SOME English publishers, at the inspiration of an ingenious librarian, have struck a new idea in advertising. They propose to call public attention to their new books by giving them away to the public libraries. The next thing is for the butchers to supply restaurants with their mutton-chops free of charge. We suggest that the libraries may as well charge the publishers for shelf-room!

WE present herewith a copy of the admirable portrait of the late John Harper, engraved on steel by Halpin, which is at once an excellent likeness and one of the finest examples of steel-plate engraving yet produced in this country. We had intended publishing this in connection with the obituary notice of the honored

veteran (in No. 172), but the necessary delay in the preparation of the plate has compelled us to defer it to this number. Mr. Halpin engraved similar likenesses of all the four brothers, and those of James and Wesley Harper are to be found in the *American Catalogue* for 1871.

A WESTERN librarian sends us the following, which we heartily commend to publishers who need the suggestion. We know from personal experience of some instances, that it needs to be heeded:

"Amongst the many useful reforms that the *Publishers' Weekly* is so ably advocating, can't it say a word regarding the binding of books? The new books that we put into the library frequently come to pieces by the time they have been out of the library three or four times. The sewing is poorly done, sections are often barely caught by the thread, consequently they drop out in reading the book through once or twice, and the thread is often poor, breaking very easily. We have to keep a binder at work all the time rebinding our books. We have books in our library that were bound fifty and even one hundred years ago, that are more substantially done than any books we get these days. How is it? Are we going backward in the art of stitching and sewing books? Perhaps the publishers think the consumption will be greater if they only wear out fast. But such a view of the subject would hardly be creditable to our enterprising publishers."

Of course no publisher proceeds on the theory spoken of, but there should be more care in requiring from the binder permanence as well as beauty. Poor binding is one of those faults in a book which hurt the sale of the same publisher's following issues among private buyers, without his hearing any thing of the reasons for the decreased sale. It does not appear until the book has left the bookseller, and the grumblings do not therefore reach headquarters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The interests of the trade can not be better served, than by a full discussion by its members of all questions which affect it. Our columns are always open to communications on any such subject, provided they be brief and suggestive, and we cordially invite the trade to express any suggestions or opinions of interest or value in "Letters to the Editor."

A Southern Bookseller's Plaint.

VICKSBURG, MISS., May 20, 1875.

To the Editor of the Publishers' Weekly:

DEAR SIR: Seeing a notice in your WEEKLY of May 15th for another convention of booksellers, at Niagara, I should like very much to contribute a "mite" toward helping along this much-needed reform in the trade. We are sadly in need of some reform in the book business, especially in this part of the country, in order to sustain an honorable calling that is now so rapidly going to decay.

I suppose that it is almost useless to speak about the abuses of the trade, and the great difficulties that a retail bookseller has to labor under at this day, in trying to keep a bookstore—that is, as a bookstore should be kept.

After a laborious experience of fifteen years in the so-called book business in this city, I see it growing beautifully less each year. My oldest and best patrons and friends will now call and get the publishers' retail prices of books, and then ask me to make a reduction (or they will not purchase) of from 20 to 30 per cent discount, saying that they can buy, which is true, from the publishers at that rate. Consequently I often have to tell them to go or send to the publishers, sooner than that I should "work for nothing and board myself."

Were it not that the regular, or what used to be called the regular book trade, is now so mixed up with periodicals, music, fancy goods, toys and notions, etc., a bookseller proper could not make even a living outside of a few great centres of trade.

As matters are now in the book trade, there is no encouragement for a bookseller to pay much attention to the regular book business.

Yours truly, H. C. CLARKE.

Humors of the Trade.

IN the delightful city of Binghamton, Mr. Sears, whom many of your readers perhaps will know, has a very neat and pretty bookstore, on one side of which he has arranged a place for keeping customers' papers and magazines, being pigeon-holed off alphabetically for subscribers' names. A few days since a lady came into the store, and accosting the clerk who stepped forward to wait on her (a clerk who, by the way, was more noted for his alacrity in attending to the wants of patrons than for any very extensive knowledge of the book business), she inquired, "Have you 'Mrs. Jerningham's Journal?'" "If you will wait a moment I will see, madam," he replied; and stepping to the pigeon-holes, he looked carefully through for a few minutes; then returning, said: "I can't find it among either the J's or the G's; are you a regular subscriber, ma'am, or only transient?"

BOOKS RECEIVED.

ART LIFE AND THEORIES OF RICHARD WAGNER, selected from his writings and translated by Edward L. Burlingame. (Henry Holt & Co.) All lovers of music will be grateful to Mr. Burlingame for placing within their reach these selections from Wagner's writings. Wagner is so utterly unknown here as a writer that these sketches come to us as revelations of a nature so long misunderstood, and a genius only fully recognized of late years. His theories of art are explained most clearly and explicitly in a paper he entitles "The Music of the Future," while in "The Purposes of the Opera" he defines the undeveloped possibilities of the operatic stage. His brief autobiography is rich in interest, as is also his "account of the production of 'Tannhäuser' in Paris."

Two sketches which are given, "An End in Paris" and "A Pilgrimage to Beethoven," were written by Wagner in early life and while in great need in Paris. They present him in a most favorable light as a writer of prose fiction, a character altogether new to us in this country. An account of the inception and progress of the opera-house at Bayreuth, with a catalogue of Wagner's published works, conclude the volume. Mr. Burlingame found Wagner's word-painting as abstruse in many cases as his music; but his easy, flowing translation proves his difficulties were not unconquerable. 12mo, cloth, $2.

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WE have received from W. W. Whitney, Toledo, "The Beautiful By-and-By," by S. H. Blakeslee, 35 c.; and from M. Gray, San Francisco, "Tantum Ergo," by Rev. Fr. Di Marzo; "Stars of the Summer Night," by Oscar Weil, 40 c.; "When, my Saviour!" by Oscar Weil, and "Little Sunshine," by David Nesfield, 30 c.

LITERARY AND TRADE NEWS.

MESSRS. WILLIAM WOOD & CO. have quietly in hand an enterprise of scarcely less magnitude than Appleton's Cyclopedia. They secured the exclusive right of translating into English the great "Cyclopedia of Practical Medicine," edited by Prof. Dr. von Ziemssen, of Erlangen, and to which the ablest clinical instructors of Germany contribute the special treatises, and now have sixty or seventy scholars, in various parts of the world, at work upon the translation. Several volumes have been issued, and it is to make in all fifteen huge octavos, of 500 to 700 pages each. Notwithstanding the narrow limits of its circulation, the work is put at $5 per volume. The typography is very clear, the type having been ordered expressly for this work, and the Cyclopedia will do us credit in the English market, which William Wood & Co. are also supplying —tit for tat!—through Messrs. Low.

B. WESTERMANN & CO., 524 Broadway are, the American agents for the new English per-i odical, *Hallberger's Illustrated Magazine*, to be issued shortly in Stuttgart by the publishers of the popular illustrated German weekly, *Ueber Land und Meer*. It will be edited by the poet Freiligrath, and will appear every three weeks

CIRCULAR No. 2, of the Bureau of Education, just received, presents an excellent summary of Education in Japan, with which Americans have so much to do. This work is interesting to the trade, for it has already created a considerable market for American books.

THE Boston bookstores miss the familiar and never-mistaken figure of "Tom Folio," Mr. Joseph E. Babson, who died last month, after a long illness. He was as singular a man as one meets in these times, shy and modest, but a man to know. With a certain class of literature, especially the estrays of standard writers, he had more acquaintance probably than any scholar in England or America, and to him the public owes the "Early and Late Papers" of Thackeray; "The Wishing-Cap Papers" of Leigh Hunt, and much similar reclaimings of waifs by Hawthorne, Lamb, Steele, and others. He never made himself prominent, and yet he leaves a place that there is no one to fill.

MESSRS. ST. JOHN & KING, 104 William st., have issued a new style of fancy note-paper, called the "Royal Duchess." There are four tints.

MESSRS. PORTER & BAINBRIDGE announce a new paper, called the "University Plaid." It is sold either by the ream or the box, and may be had of various sizes.

THE attention which is paid to children nowadays is one of the most notable facts of bookmaking. The new "Outline History of the United States," by Benson J. Lossing, which Sheldon & Co. are putting out for the fall campaign, has several hundred illustrations in its four hundred twelvemo pages, of the most interesting character. There are one hundred and twenty-five portraits of great men, twenty-six full or half-page illustrations, sixty and more maps and plans, several of them colored, and others giving with remarkable clearness the military plans of the rebellion battle-fields, and a great many other cuts. The text is full of good features: its typography is very distinct, and its questions, reviews, and appendices admirably calculated to fix the facts in the pupil's mind.

THE Systematic Beneficence Society, of Birmingham, Ct., offers, through its secretary, Mr. George W. Shelton, a prize of one hundred dollars for the best tract ("that shall be judged satisfactory") on giving a percentage of one's annual income for charity. The essays must reach the Secretary by July 1st.

A NEW catalogue, No. 44, has just been issued by J. W. Bouton.

THE National Temperance Society, 84 Reade street, offer large prizes for "A Standard Temperance Prize Essay." It is to be in three parts, and prizes are now about to be awarded to competitors for the first, namely: "The Scientific; embracing the Chemical, Physiological, and Medical Aspects." The other two parts are "The Historical, Statistical, Economical, and Political," and "The Social, Educational, and Religious." For the best essay under each of these two heads $500 will be paid, and $300 for the second best. The offer remains open till July 1, 1876.

PRESIDENT R. MILLIGAN, of Bible College, in Kentucky University, died March 20th, leaving his second volume of "Analysis of the New Testament" unfinished. It is doubtful about its being published.

MR. WILLIAM H. YOUNG, of Troy, has sailed for Europe.

J. SABIN & SONS have published a very clever etching, after George Cruikshank, of "The Last Man on the Beecher-Tilton Jury," with an extract from the New-York *Morning Journal* of A.D. 1925. The survivor is an old gray-beard, trumpet to ear, who sits solitary in the jury-box, surrounded by piles of *verbatim* reports marked "1875," "1895," "1920," etc. There is capital humor in it.

THE remarkable book entitled "The Unseen Universe; or, Physical Speculations on a Future State," just published by Macmillan & Co., of New-York, turns out to be the joint

production of Prof. P. Guthrie Tait, of Edinburgh, and Prof. Balfour Stewart, of Owen's College, Manchester.

MANY of the trade who met Mr. August Auerbach, son of the great German novelist, at the Put-in Bay Convention or elsewhere, during his stay in this country, will be glad to learn that he has become a member of the trade in Stuttgart. While here, he made it his especial business to study the American book publishing and selling systems, and we hear that he proposes to make a specialty of issuing translations of American books. We give a translation of his circular of announcement, required by the custom of the trade to be registered before any one can obtain trade privileges, as of interest to American readers. Its curious strain of compliment is quite usual, strange as it may sound to American ears:

"STUTTGART, in March, 1875.

"P. P.—Herewith I have the honor to announce respectfully to you, that I have founded a

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"Mr. E. F. Steinacker, with whom I shall place a full supply stock of my publications, has the kindness to undertake my commission business at Leipzig.

"Reserving the privilege of notifying you of my earliest undertakings in their time, I commend myself to your courteous good wishes, and remain, Most respectfully,

"AUGUST AUERBACH.

"* A properly attested copy of this circular has been deposited in the Archives of the Börsen Verein."

BUSINESS CHANGES.

AUBURN, N. Y.—Elliot & Allardice, booksellers, stationers, and newsdealers, have made an assignment to Charles O'Brien.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.—The partnership hitherto existing under the name of Maxwell, Batchelder & Co., has been dissolved, and a new firm, under name of Maxwell & Co., been formed.

BOSTON, MASS.—The firm of Noyes, Holmes & Co., having dissolved by limitation, has been succeeded by Lockwood, Brooks & Co.

BOSTON, MASS.—Messrs. G. H. S. Driver and Charles I. Shepard have retired from the firm of Henry L. Shepard & Co., publishers, Boston, and the business is continued by Henry L. Shepard.

DETROIT, MICH.—Bothroyd & Gibbs have closed their office at Grand Rapids, removing to Detroit, which will be hereafter their headquarters. They have also established a branch office at Saginaw.

EVANSVILLE, IND.—Brandis & Meadows, booksellers and newsdealers, are succeeded by A. S. Patrick, formerly of Rome, Ga.

FORT WAYNE, IND.—Siemon & Bro. have moved into a new store, 50 Calhoun street.

NEW-YORK.—The business heretofore conducted in the name of S. R. Wells will be continued under the style of S. R. Wells & Company.

NEW-YORK.—The house of E. & H. T. Anthony, photographic materials, has been dissolved, and a new firm, under the same name, been established.

PALMER, MASS.—The book and drug business formerly carried on by Wood & Allen, at Palmer, Mass., will in future be conducted by Allen & Cowan; the former firm having been dissolved and succeeded by the latter.

PHILADELPHIA.—Henry Carey Baird has admitted as a partner Mr. J. Franklin Garde, and the style of the firm is changed to Henry Carey Baird & Co.

PHILADELPHIA.—By the death of William B. Evans, the firm of William B. Evans & Co. has been dissolved. S. T. Souder & Co., having purchased their interest, stock, plates, etc., will continue the business at the old stand.

SOUTH-BEND, IND.—Smith & Holloway, booksellers and stationers, have made an assignment to Marshall P. Chapin.

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2. Dr. Schliemann's Great Work.

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